

DEPARTMENT OF AGING

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PROGRAM MEMO

TO: AREA AGENCY ON AGING DIRECTORS cc: Ombudsman Program Coordinators	NO.: PM 04- 01 (P)
SUBJECT: Long-Term Care Consumer Protection Initiative/Ombudsman Expansion	DATE ISSUED: January 9, 2004
REVISED	EXPIRES: Until Superseded
REFERENCES: PM 03-13 (P)	SUPERSEDES:
PROGRAMS AFFECTED: <input type="checkbox"/> All <input type="checkbox"/> Title III-B <input type="checkbox"/> Title III-C1/C2 <input type="checkbox"/> Title III-D <input type="checkbox"/> Title III-E <input type="checkbox"/> Title V <input type="checkbox"/> CBSP <input type="checkbox"/> MSSP <input type="checkbox"/> Title VII <input type="checkbox"/> ADHC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Ombudsman</u>	
REASON FOR PROGRAM MEMO: <input type="checkbox"/> Change in Law or Regulation <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Inquiry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Specify: <u>Change in Funding for the Ombudsman Program</u>	
INQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO: Jana Matal, Ombudsman Program Manager, Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman (OSLTCO), (916) 323-6681, jmatal@aging.ca.gov	

As you are aware, the Long-Term Care Consumer Protection Initiative is designed to increase protections for residents of California's long-term care facilities by increasing the number of volunteer Ombudsmen working in Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF).

This Program Memo (PM) outlines changes in funding for the augmentation of the Ombudsman volunteer recruitment program. Based on the experience of eight other states that currently receive funding from Medicaid, the California Department of Aging (CDA) anticipated that Ombudsman services would be eligible to receive Medicaid funding. In Spring 2003, CDA worked with the Department of Health Services (DHS), which requested Medicaid funding from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Throughout the Summer and Fall of 2003, DHS attempted to ascertain the status of our request. In late December 2003, CMS made the decision to deny the request for Medicaid reimbursement. According to CMS, the request was denied because the Ombudsman program is funded by the Older Americans Act and, is hence, ineligible to receive Medicaid funding. Since there are no other alternative sources of funding available at this time, the volunteer recruitment initiative will be funded solely from the State's Federal Citation Penalties Account.



Because CDA will not receive the anticipated Medicaid funding for the Initiative, the goals of the Initiative will need to be revised commensurate with the loss of Medicaid funding. Based upon the elimination of Medicaid funding, the statewide three-year goal will be reduced from 650 to 455 additional volunteers. Attached to this PM is a chart (Attachment 1) with revised allocations and numbers of additional volunteers to be recruited for each Planning and Service Area.

Title III/VII contracts will be amended so that budget displays remove the Medicaid reimbursement allotments and references to the Medicaid funding. This amendment will be combined with other amendments in the next few months.

REVISED FISCAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) do not need to revise Monthly Expenditure Report and Request for Funds forms (CDA-OMB-300) that reported expenditures for the first six months of the fiscal year (July-December 2003). The revised fiscal reporting system for these funds will still consist of a combined one-page budget/monthly expenditure report/request for funds form, and a one-page close out report. The close out report will be transmitted under a separate cover. The fiscal system will be a paper system operating at least through June 30, 2005, e-mailed monthly to the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman. The Monthly Expenditure Report and Request for Funds form is available in an Excel 4.0 spreadsheet and will be e-mailed simultaneously to AAAs and local Ombudsman programs with distribution of this PM. A copy of the revised form and instructions are attached to this PM (Attachment 2).

The local Ombudsman programs should continue to complete and submit the CDA-OMB-300 to AAAs electronically. AAA staff will continue to review, approve, and transmit the form to CDA via e-mail by the 30th of each month. AAAs must begin using the revised form by February 28, 2004. Please send completed forms each month to ayanez@aging.ca.gov.

AAAs should work with local Ombudsman programs to revise the budget column for each cost category (Part I, column a) to solely reflect funds from the State's Federal Citation Penalties Account. Budget revisions are to be sent to CDA on the Monthly Expenditure Report and Request for Funds form that is due February 28, 2004.

We regret that the unavailability of Medicaid funding will negatively impact the Ombudsman program's ability to fully implement the Initiative. CDA is committed to working with AAAs and local Ombudsman Programs to implement the Initiative to the greatest extent possible with the funds that are available to us. To that end, CDA is implementing its statewide volunteer recruitment plan, including a press release that will be distributed statewide in the next few weeks, a radio public service announcement that is in progress, and other strategies to recruit additional volunteer Ombudsmen.

Original Signed By Lynda Terry

Lynda Terry
Director

Attachments

Amended Ombudsman Program Allocations and Volunteer Recruitment Targets by PSA
Monthly Expenditure Report and Request for Funds (CDA-OMB-300)
Instructions for Completing the CDA-OMB-300 Form

cc: Ombudsman Program Coordinators